

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: KORUTURK REDESIGNATES ECEVIT TO FORM GOVERNMENT

1. TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN SPEECH OCTOBER 10
1900 LOCAL REVIEWED POLITICAL EVENTS OF PAST YEAR, REPORTING ON HIS
OWN EFFORTS OF LAST TWO WEEKS AND, IN CONCLUSION, ASKED
REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY LEADER BULENT ECEVIT TO ATTEMPT TO FORM
A NEW GOVERNMENT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER ECEVIT SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED
THIS OFFER.

2. KORUTURK'S SPEECH BEGAN WITH CAREFUL REVIEW OF EVENT
FOLLOWING INDECISIVE 1973 NATIONAL ELECTION. HE NOTED THAT
SINCE RESIGNATION OF FIRST ECEVIT CABINET SEPT 18, HE (KORUTURK) HAD
MADE A NUMBER OF EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT BASED ON ONE OF THE
MAJOR PARTIES. AS A RESULT OF HIS FAILURE IN THAT CONNECTION, SAID
THE PRESIDENT, HE HAD THOUGHT THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY
WOULD BE THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. HE LISTED
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A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS DECISION, MOST IMPORTANT

OF WHICH FOLLOW:

(A) CYPRUS SITUATION: IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT POINT MADE WAS INTRODUCTION OF CUT-OFF OF AMERICAN AID. AID. PRESIDENT KORUTURK SAID WITH SOME ACERBITY THAT HE WANTED TO ANNOUNCE TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION AND TO THE WORLD THAT AMERICAN AID IS NOT A ONE-SIDED FAVOR OR CHARITY AND THAT THE TURKISH-US AID RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND MUTUAL BENEFITS-CUTTING OFF AID HURTS BOTH PARTNERS EQUALLY. HE SAID HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH PRESSURE FROM "CERTAIN GROUPS" IN THE U.S., BUT GREATLY APPRECIATED THE GOOD EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER US LEADERS. HE ADDED THAT, DESPITE THIS PROBLEM, TURKEY WILL REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE.

(B) TURKEY'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

(C) THE NEED TO AGREE ON A BUDGET AND CONTINUE GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL EFFECTIVENESS.

(D) THE POSSIBILITY THAT A MORE EFFECTIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEM MIGHT BE DEVELOPED.

3. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY REGRETTING THAT THESE REASONS HAD NOT PERSUADED THE PARTIES TO JOIN IN NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. HE WAS, AS A RESULT, TURNING BACK TO THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, BULENT ECEVIT.

4. WHEN ECEVIT LATER LEFT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND STATED HE HAD ACCEPTED THIS COMMISSION, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TASK WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE. HE ASKED THE OTHER PARTIES TO SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING A NEW GOVERNMENT AND OF RECONSIDERING EARLIER VIEWS THEY HAD ANNOUNCED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: (A) PRESIDENT KORUTURK EMPHASIZED EFFORTS HE HAD MADE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT (THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH POSITION HE TOOK DURING 100 DAYS' CRISIS EARLIER THIS YEAR); (B) FOR THE FIRST TIME HE PUBLICLY MENTIONED QUESTION OF US MILITARY AID IN CONNECTION WITH LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION (THIS ISSUE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DOWNPLAYED IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION);
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(C) IN ACCEPTING TASK OF FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT, ECEVIT UNDOUBTEDLY LEFT DOOR OPEN TO FURTHER EFFORT TO FORM COALITION, POSSIBLY OF BROAD PROPORTIONS; (D) KORUTURK'S STRONG PITCH FOR CHANGE IN TURKISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM ADDS HIS OWN PRESTIGIOUS WEIGHT TO GROWING COMMENT HERE THAT NEW LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH NOW SEEMS CALCULATED TO PRODUCE WEAK GOVERNMENTS.

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